

Will Strengthen National Security, Create Jobs in Iowa

Washington, DC - In an address to the Iowa Renewable Fuels Association today, Rep. Bruce Braley (D-Iowa) announced he will introduce legislation to require country of origin labeling for fuels. Braley will introduce the bill, Country of Origin Labeling (COOL) for Fuels, tomorrow when he returns to Washington, DC.

The bill will require the Department of Energy to conduct a study and implement its recommendations to ensure American consumers have the ability to decide at the gas pump whether they want to purchase domestic fuel products, such as biofuels produced in Iowa, or gasoline produced in hostile nations that many terrorists call home.

"When we fill up our vehicles, there's no existing method for us to know where the fuel we're purchasing comes from and which nations are deriving the economic benefit from that purchase," Braley said. "When we put food in our bodies or clothes on our backs, we know exactly where those products come from. Americans should have the same opportunity to vote with their wallets at the gas pump.

"COOL for Fuels is common sense legislation that will create jobs in Iowa, reduce our dependence on foreign oil and continue to move America toward a 21st century economy. I want those jobs right here in Iowa, producing clean energy with Iowa corn, strengthening Iowa's communities and keeping Iowa's families safe.

"Currently, Saudi Arabia produces 11 percent of America's oil imports. Nigeria and Venezuela each produce 10 percent of America's oil imports. It simply does not make sense for America to pour billions of dollars each year into the treasuries of these countries, especially when we remember that Saudi Arabia was home to 15 of the 9/11 hijackers and Nigeria was home to the terrorist who tried to blow up flight 253."

Besides weakening national security, America's dependence on foreign oil has a tremendous impact on Iowa's middle class families, by raising prices for gasoline and groceries or sending hard-earned dollars overseas. Meanwhile, funding for biofuels research creates jobs in America and invests in Iowa's communities. The U.S. Department of Energy estimates that for every one billion gallons of ethanol produced, 10,000 to 20,000 jobs will be created.